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C O N T E N T S

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LAOS: Both sides showing interest in serious negotiations.

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*LAOS: BOTH SIDES ARE SHOWING INTEREST IN UNDERTAKING SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAO PEACE AGREEMENT. GOVERNMENT CHIEF NEGOTIATOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN DESCRIBED HIS MEETING WITH COMMUNIST ENVOY PHOUMI VONGVICHIT ON 15 JUNE-- THE FIRST SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE-- AS "PRODUCTIVE" AND SAID THAT PHOUMI HAD DISPLAYED A MORE BUSINESS-LIKE ATTITUDE THAN AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS. SOUVANNA HAS CALLED ON THE TWO DELEGATES TO COMPLETE THE NEGOTIATIONS BY 1 JULY, AND PHOUMI HAS AGREED TO TRY TO MEET THIS DEADLINE. SOUVANNA TOLD THEM TO COME TO HIM IF THEY REACH AN IMPASSE ON ANY SPECIFIC POINT.

SOUVANNA IS READY TO MAKE SEVERAL CONCESSIONS ON ISSUES THAT HAVE HELD UP THE TALKS SINCE FEBRUARY. AT THE MEETING ON 15 JUNE, PHENG ACCEPTED SOME OF THE PATHET LAO DEMANDS ON THE PORTFOLIOS IN A NEW COALITION. SOUVANNA IS ALSO PREPARED TO BEND ON PROVISIONS FOR THE SECURITY OF PATHET LAO MEMBERS OF A NEW COALITION, ON THE SIZE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION, AND THE DEMARCATION OF AREAS OF CONTROL. SOUVANNA PRESUMABLY HOPES THAT THESE CONCESSIONS WILL KEEP THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS MOVING, AND HE PROBABLY EXPECTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS, IN THE WAKE OF THE PARIS TALKS, WILL NOW ALSO SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY.

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*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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